



News Release

Cooperating with Kentucky Department of Agriculture
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KENTUCKY CROP ACREAGE INCREASES

Farmers in **Kentucky** increased their acreage planted to corn, soybeans, wheat and fire cured tobacco for 2011. Acres set for dark air cured and burley tobacco was down from the 2010 level according to the Kentucky Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Soybeans planted in **Kentucky** was estimated at 1.52 million acres, up 120,000 acres from 2010, and the largest soybean plantings since 1984. Acres harvested for grain, at 1.50 million acres, was 110,000 above a year ago, and if realized, would be the largest acres harvested since 1982. Planting progress was slow this spring due to wet weather and flood problems. Soybeans in Kentucky are planted both as full season beans and double crop soybeans following winter wheat harvest. The emerged crop was in mostly good to excellent condition. **U.S.** soybean planted area for 2011 was estimated at 75.2 million acres, down 3 percent from last year. Area for harvest, at 74.3 million acres, was also down 3 percent from 2010.

Acreage planted to **corn** in **Kentucky** was estimated at 1.44 million acres, up 100,000 acres from 2010, and the largest corn acreage since 2007. Acres harvested for grain was estimated at 1.34 million acres, up 110,000 from last year. A wet spring delayed planting and flooding caused some reseeding to occur. The emerged crop was in mostly good condition. The **U.S.** corn planted for all purposes in 2011 was estimated at 92.3 million acres, up 5 percent from last year, and the second highest planted acreage in the U.S. since 1944, behind only the 93.5 million acres planted in 2007. Growers expect to harvest 84.9 million acres for grain, up 4 percent from last year.

Farmers in **Kentucky** set an estimated 63,000 acres of **burley tobacco** for harvest. This was 9,000 acres below the 2010 level, and the smallest acreage on record. **Dark fire-cured tobacco** acreage set was estimated at 9,300 acres, up 500 acres from the previous year. **Dark air-cured tobacco** acreage was estimated at 4,200 acres, down 200 acres from a year ago. All tobacco set was in mostly good to fair condition. **Burley Producing States** acreage for harvest was estimated at 90,000 acres, 8 percent below last year. If realized, this would be the lowest burley acreage on record, well below the 97,500 record low acres established in 2008.

Winter wheat seeded acreage in **Kentucky** was estimated at 530,000 acres, down 10,000 from the March planted estimate but 140,000 acres above the previous year. Acreage harvested for grain was estimated at 410,000 acres, 160,000 acres above 2010. Strong prices encouraged additional wheat seedings last fall. The **U.S.** winter wheat planted area was estimated at 41.1 million acres, up 10 percent from 2010 but down slightly from the previous estimate. Area harvested for grain was forecast at 32.3 million acres, up 2 percent from last year.

Alfalfa hay acreage in **Kentucky** was estimated at 250,000 acres, an increase of 20,000 from the 2010 crop. **All other hay** acreage was estimated at 2.10 million acres, a decrease of 200,000 acres from a year ago. The **U.S. all hay** acreage was estimated at 57.6 million acres, down 4 percent from 2010.

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